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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06473 112022Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3387

S E C R E T CAIRO 6473

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ANSC, EG, US
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

REF: STATE 114795

1. AFTER HIS BUSY DAY YESTERDAY, FAHMY DID NOT GO TO THE OFFICE TODAY. THIS EVENING, HOWEVER, HE RECEIVED ME AT HIS HOME SO THAT I COULD CONVEY YOUR MESSAGE TO SADAT AND TO HIM.

2. AFTER READING IT CAREFULLY SEVERAL TIMES, HE COMMENTED THAT OUR REPLY WAS JUST ABOUT WHAT HE HAD EXPECTED. OUR "UNDERSTANDING" OF LAST SEPTEMBER WITH THE ISRAELIS HAS SHARPLY CURTAILED OUR FLEXIBILITY. I POINTED OUT YOUR MESSAGE INDICATED THAT THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR US. HE WOULD SURELY APPRECIATE THE REASONS FOR THIS. FAHMY INSISTED IT IS OUR "UNDERSTANDING" WITH THE ISRAELIS, AND REPEATEDLY CAME BACK TO THIS. HE ALSO SHOWED SOME SENSITIVITY TO THE LAST PARAGRAPH ABOUT THE "SLAP" AT SADAT, CLAIMING HE HAD NOT SAID THIS. (HE DID, BUT THERE WAS NO PURPOSE TO PRESSING THE POINT.) HE THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT BE PRUDENT TO SEND THAT PARAGRAPH TO SADAT AND ASKED THAT I GIVE HIM A NEW COPY OF THE MESSAGE WITHOUT THE PARAGRAPH. I SAID I WOULD

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DO SO TOMORROW, AT WHICH TIME HE WILL SEND IT TO

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THE PRESIDENT AT BURG EL-ARAB.

3. FAHMY SAID HE DID NOT AGREE WITH OUR ANALYSIS THAT
ABSTAINING ON A MODERATE UNSC RESOLUTION WOULD
COMPLICATE THE PROBLEM OF RENEWING THE UNDOF MANDATE
LATER THIS MONTH, SINCE THE SYRIANS COULD BE EXPECTED
TO INCREASE THEIR PRICE. IN HIS VIEW, IF WE ABSTAIN
ON A MODERATE RESOLUTION IT SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR US
TO TAKE A RIGID POSITION ON ANY SYRIAN RESOLUTION
IN CONNECTION WITH UNDOF UNLESS WE HAVE ALREADY AGREED
WITH THE SYRIANS TO PAY A HIGHER PRICE FOR UNDOF
RENEWAL. HE WONDERED IF WE MIGHT ALREADY HAVE AN
ARRANGEMENT WITH SYRIA ON UNDOF RENEWAL IN RETURN FOR
US SUPPORT OF SYRIAN ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON. I TOLD HIM
THIS WAS PATENTLY NOT THE CASE, BUT HE REAMINED
SKEPTICAL. HE CLAIMED SAUDI AND KUWAITI FONMINS HAD JUST
CONFIRMED HIS IMPRESSION.

4. I ASKED HIM IF THERE WAS NOT SOME WAY FOR GOE TO
ALLOW THE DEBATE TO END WITHOUT A RESOLUTION. HIS
INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE. WHEN I
POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE HAD SOME REPORTS FROM
NEW YORK SUGGESTING THAT A BODY OF SENTIMENT MIGHT BE
GROWING, INCLUDING PERHAPS EVEN THE PLO REP TERZI,
THAT A NO RESOLUTION OUTCOME MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE, FAHMY
UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO THIS. HE INDICATED EGYPTIAN
PERMREP ABDUL MEGUID IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO
BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ARAB STATES
TODAY AND WILL PROBABLY GET IN TOUCH WITH SCRANTON IN
THE NEXT DAY OR TWO. HE WOULD TOMORROW SEND SUPPLEMENTARY
INSTRUCTIONS TO ABDUL MEGUID ASKING HIM TO EXPLORE INTERESTED
PARTIES' ATTITUDES ON A NO RESOLUTION OUTCOME.
IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT SENTIMENT ALONG THESE LINES,
PERHAPS THE UNSC PRESIDENT COULD ARRANGE SUCH AN
OUTCOME BY A CONSENSUS.

5. IN THINKING FURTHER ABOUT THE MATTER, FAHMY ALSO
BROACHED THE DESIRABILITY OF WALDHEIM CONVENING THE
UNSC OR UNDOF, SAY, TEN DAYS OR SO BEFORE THE
MAY 30 DEADLINE. THIS WOULD HELP DIVERT ATTENTION FROM WEST BANK
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DEBATE AND MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER FOR GOE AND OTHERS TO ACCEPT A
NO RESOLUTION OUTCOME. ALTHOUGH WALDHEIM IS NOW
IN AFRICA ELECTIONEERING, HE ASKED THAT WE APPROACH
THE SYG ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY.

6. COMMENT: ALL IN ALL, FAHMY'S REACTION WAS
RELATIVELY MILD. I SENSED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO FIND
A WAY OUT IF HE NOW COULD DO SO. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON

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HOW MUCH SENTIMENT THERE IS IN UNSC AND AMONG INTERESTED
PARTIES ON A NO RESOLUTION OUTCOME. HIS SUSPICION ABOUT OUR
ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON REMAIN, HOWEVER, AND HE WONDERED SEVERAL TIMES
WHY HE HAS NOT YET HEARD ANYTHING FROM US ON WHAT WE
ARE CURRENTLY DOING IN LEBANON. I SUSPECT SAUDI FONMI MAY HAVE
TOLD HIM SOMETHING ABOUT OUR EXCHANGES WITH FAHD ON THE SUBJECT,
WHICH MAY HAVE FURTHER AROUSED HIS SUSPICIONS.
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